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ADDRESS

OF THE

LE'S CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA,

IN FAVOR OF

GEN. SIMON CAMERON

FOR THE NEXT

RESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

1859.



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CONFIDENTIAL

ADDRESS

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE PRINCIPLES AND POLICY OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, AND IN FAVOR OF THE ELECTION OF A CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF THE UNION, IN 1860, WHO WILL INAUGURATE A TRULY AMERICAN REPUBLICAN SYSTEM IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

By a resolution adopted by the People's Club of Philadelphia, which has been organized to promote the nomination of GEN. SIMON CAMERON, of Pennsylvania, as the People's Candidate for the next Presidency, it has been made the duty of the undersigned, the Executive Committee of said Club, to address you on the subject. While in the performance of this duty, their preference for the distinguished Statesman, proceeding from an earnest conviction of his ability to administer the government to the satisfaction of the people, as well as of his availability to ensure success at the ballot-box, shall be ardently urged upon the favorable consideration of their fellow citizens, it forms no part of their purpose to give utterance to anything prejudicial to other distinguished statesmen whose names have been mentioned as candidates, or that may wound the feelings, or can justly cause offence to any of their friends and supporters.

The primary design of the People's Club has already been indicated. Those who belong to it believe that the nomination of Gen. Cameron would ensure certain success; and so believing, they felt it to be their imperative duty, thus to organize, and thereby produce discussion and beget a spirit of inquiry. If successful in eliciting expressions of public opinion, and developing public sentiment, they will have accomplished their object, and do not fear the result. Well assured of the high administrative capacity of their choice, and confident of his eminent availability as a candidate, they do not fear public discussion of his claims upon the consideration of those who desire success, both at the polls and in the administration of the government afterwards. They, on the contrary, invite such a scrutiny and discussion, and desire to consult the views, and feelings, and wishes of the great mass of their fellow countrymen, who are opposed to the present administration, and desire a change to be effected at the next election.

A nomination so brought about, and which will be emphatically the result of the popular will, can not fail to be the proper one to lead to victory. Any other course, having reliance only on the machinery of party, and looking to the discipline of party-drill sergeants for success, in utter disregard of the views and feelings of the conflicting elements into

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which the great mass of people, whose united support is necessary, are divided, can not result otherwise than in defeat.

In Pennsylvania, the bond which unites the People's Party on a common platform of principles, and in a common cause of opposition to those in power in the Federal Government, is firm and strong, and will prove itself enduring, if not weakened or destroyed by misguided and uninformed councils elsewhere. Our strength here is in union. United action has secured us two successive victories in the State, and will as certainly obtain for us in the future what it has accomplished in the past. But, should any portion of the People's Party, influenced by the action of their distinctive organization in other States, be disposed to act under opposite impressions, which, happily, is not likely to be the case with many, if any, those having a knowledge of the real condition of things in the State, will not deem us rash in saying, that defeat would inevitably follow such act. To be successful at the next Presidential election, it seems to be conceded by all, the electoral vote of this State must be secured; and it, we are persuaded, can only be secured by maintaining the integrity of the People's Party. We hold, therefore, that but one candidate for the Presidency should be in the field against the Democratic nominee, and that he should be the nominee of no distinctive organization, but of the united action of all branches of the opposition to the Democratic Party of the country. Such action, we know full well, can only be obtained by a spirit of conciliation and forbearance. Difficult it may be, but it has been attained in this State, and glorious results have been reaped from it. What has been accomplished here may be throughout the Union, by the same sacrifice of partisan feelings and prejudices on the altar of the public good.

To nominate a candidate, who can unite the whole opposition into one harmonious organization throughout the country, and command its support, we know, is no easy task. We take pleasure in the assurance, however, derived from our knowledge of his ability to do this in our own State, that the choice already indicated is pre-eminently adapted to become the same grand rallying point of the opposition throughout the country. We present, therefore, to the respectful consideration of our political brethren in other States, the name of Gen. Simon Cameron, as the man certain of success in this State; and as, in our opinion, the most available to ensure success in the Union. In doing this, we present, likewise, a brief record of his private and public career, his opinions on public measures, speeches, votes, &c.; and we do so, with the confident belief that it need be but impartially examined to secure for him ardent friends and supporters everywhere, more especially among the laboring men of the country, from among whom he has elevated himself to his present high position, and of whose interests he is one of the most devoted and ablest champions.

GEN. CAMERON'S HISTORY.

It is the peculiar boast of our country, that its highest honors are within the reach of all who are deserving of them. It has no honors nor dignities which are not legitimate objects of ambition to those of the humblest parentage, as well as those most favored by the gifts of birth and fortune. It is one of the happiest results of its free institutions, that none can claim respect, nor command public confidence or support, on account of parentage. The good name of an honest man, or much desired fame of a distinguished citizen, can neither be gained by inheritance nor bestowed by devise. He that desires to enjoy either, must earn it by his own deeds. Ours is emphatically a Government of the People; and it has been from their ranks—

"the toiling millions"—that have sprung those who have shed the brightest lustre on the pages of our history. So universally almost has this been the case, as well to justify the remark of an eminent writer, that "the biography of our country's most distinguished and honored Statesmen is eminently fraught with encouragement and hope for aspiring youth—especially for those who enter upon the stage of active life unportioned and unheralded by the partial voice of powerful friends and kindred."

The history of Gen. Simon Cameron is a beautiful illustration of the benign operations of our free institutions. He is one of the very large number of our eminent men, who, beside the disadvantage of poverty and obscurity, had to encounter that of early orphanage. He was born to an inheritance of poverty, and enjoyed not the aid of wealthy and influential connections. He has achieved eminence for himself, and owes it not to birth or pedigree. All he is, he has made himself. His history affords a no less pleasing than useful lesson of what may be accomplished, even under the most adverse circumstances, and in the face of the greatest obstacles, by intellect and courage, aided and controlled by energy, perseverance, sobriety, and integrity.

HIS ANCESTRY AND PARENTAGE.

Gen. Cameron comes from a brave and heroic race of men. He is a descendant of the Camerons of Scotland. Donald Cameron, his great grandfather, was among those who took part with Charles Edward. He fought at the battle of Culloden, in 1745, and soon afterward came to this country. On his arrival here, he served in the army which so gallantly stormed the heights of Abraham, at Quebec, under the lead of the brave and heroic Wolfe. His grandfather, on the maternal side, was Conrad Pfoutz, a German Huguenot, who, driven from his native land by bigotry and persecution, came to this country at an early period. Here, he soon actively engaged in the wars with the Indians, and became the intimate associate and companion of the famous Captain Sam Brady, the great Indian fighter.

HIS BIRTH, EDUCATION, AND APPRENTICESHIPS.

Gen. Cameron was born on the 8th day of March, 1799, in Maytown, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Both his parents were also natives of Lancaster, from whence they moved to Northumberland, in 1808, where his father soon afterwards died, leaving the family without any other inheritance than an honest name. The family being thus deprived of its natural guardian and protector, and left without any means for their education and support, it was, of course, impossible for the children to enjoy even the poor advantages of education afforded by village schools in those days. There were then no free schools; and the mother, though possessed of great energy, and the most unfaltering courage, had more than enough to do to feed and clothe, and keep together her little ones under her own family roof, until they were able to provide for themselves.

Discouraging and unpropitious as were these circumstances, they had no disheartening influences upon the mind of her son, Simon; but, on the contrary, they seem rather to have had the effect of stimulating him to exertions proportionate to the obstacles in his way. He was a lad of but nine years of age at the death of his father, possessing a mind that had a craving for knowledge, and, to satisfy that appetite, he spent every leisure moment in reading. But there were then no well furnished public libraries, acces-

sible to boys, as there now are. He accordingly directed his attention to the village printing office, where he might have the use of the exchange papers, and thus satisfy his mental appetite, and accumulate a stock of useful knowledge. An opportunity soon offered, of which he availed himself with alacrity, by becoming apprentice to learn the art and mystery of printing. While he had this place, he had access to food for the mind, and its appetite grew by what it fed upon; but he was not destined long to enjoy the advantages of the place which he had thus secured. After a year or two his employer was obliged to succumb to financial reverses, and to close up his establishment. This happened in 1817. Having by this time possessed himself of an amount of practical information that emboldened him to enter upon life with a confident reliance upon himself, he started from home, almost penniless, it is true, and with nothing but a small bundle of clothing under his arm, with the intention of working his way, how, or in what manner, he hardly knew himself, to South-America, there to engage in the struggle for independence, which was then going on between the South American colonies and Old Spain. When he reached Harrisburg, however, he already found his feet so blistered as to make it necessary for him to tarry there for a while. Having a letter of introduction to James Peacock, Esq., then editor of a paper at that place, he applied to him for employment in his office. There was no vacancy, nor need for him in it; but Mr. Peacock kindly invited him to remain and recruit his energies before continuing his tramp. Finding him an expert workman, and being pleased with his manner and demeanor, Mr. Peacock, after the lapse of a few days, offered to take him as an apprentice, which offer was promptly accepted, and an apprenticeship entered into, and faithfully served out to the satisfaction of his employer and his own.

HIS COURSE AFTER ARRIVING AT AGE.

Gen. Cameron having arrived at his majority, in 1820, he left Harrisburg, and spent the greater part of that year in a printing office at Doylestown, setting type and editing the paper. The next year was spent by him as a journeyman printer, in the office of Messrs. Gales and Seaton, publishers of the *National Intelligencer*, in the city of Washington. He returned to Harrisburg, in 1822, and became a copartner with Charles Mowry, in the publication of the *Intelligencer*, which was then the organ of the Democratic party, at the seat of government, and enjoyed the official patronage of the State administration. It will be thus perceived that he commenced his editorial career, with the leading organ of the Democratic party of the State, within a year after he had arrived at age, and that, too, without having enjoyed any other means of education and training, for so important a duty, than what the printing office furnishes to an apprentice. How, and with what skill and ability, he performed the important duty, which he thus assumed, without having enjoyed the usual advantages of even a school education, saying nothing of a collegiate course, to prepare him for it, his success in the undertaking, and his rapid rise to influence and position among the public men of the State, afford an answer which can neither be misapprehended nor mistaken. He continued to conduct the *Intelligencer* until 1829, when he retired to engage in other business pursuits.

WAS APPOINTED ADJUTANT GENERAL.

He was the early friend and supporter of John Andrew Shulze for Governor, who, before his election to that office, represented Lebanon county

in the State Senate, and, while in that body, had attracted the notice of some of the leading Democrats, as a popular and available candidate. Gen. Cameron was active in urging his nomination, and became a zealous and efficient supporter of his administration. During the latter part of it, he was honored with the appointment of Adjutant General of the State, the duties of which he discharged with ability, and to the satisfaction of the public.

HIS RETIREMENT AS EDITOR OF THE INTELLIGENCER.

Gen. Cameron took an active part in 1829, in favor of the nomination of Gen. Bernard as the Democratic candidate for Governor, who was at that time the favorite of the Democracy of the State, and whose defeat in the Convention was regarded as a disregard of the public will, and gave rise to great dissatisfaction in the party throughout the State. Participating in this feeling, Gen. Cameron retired from the *Intelligencer*, and turned his attention to other business pursuits.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MIDDLETOWN BANK.

In 1832, a charter was obtained for the establishment of the Middletown Bank, of which, on its organization, he became the Cashier, a position held by him from that time until the present. Though mainly occupied from the time of its organization until 1845, in the discharge of his duties as Cashier of it, and attending to other private business matters of his own, he ever took a lively interest in the political movements of the day. During this period he was repeatedly brought forward and urged, by his friends, for public positions, and, in 1838, he was unanimously nominated for Congress, by the Democratic party of his District, but he refused the use of his name on all occasions, and declined the nomination thus given him.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER.

In 1838, President Van Buren tendered to Gen. Cameron the appointment of Commissioner under a treaty with the Winnebago Indians, to settle and adjust the claim made against the Indians by the traders. Mr. James Murray, one of the most respected citizens of Maryland, was appointed with him in the commission. The sum appropriated by the Treaty was \$400,000. The claims of the traders were for goods furnished the Indians during a long period of years. The Commissioners were, by their instructions, bound to examine testimony and allow what, in their judgment, was just, and after payment, the sum remaining was to remain in the Treasury. The claims of the traders, on examination, were found, in many cases, to be entirely without foundation. A Commissioner had been appointed by the Indians, to meet the Commissioners of the United States, and every account allowed by them met the approbation of the agent of the Indians. A great deal of patient labor was given to the subject, and, after more than two months spent in the Indian country, the Commissioners reduced the aggregate amount of claims from over a million to about \$250,000. In the settlement of some of the claims, the traders refused to accept the awards, and came to Washington with charges against the Commissioners. This was met by a demand from the Commissioners for a re-examination, which resulted in the appointment of a new Commissioner the next year, under whose direction the Indians were assembled in Council, who approved, by a united vote of their Council, the entire acts of Messrs. Cameron and Murray, and the account thus adjudged was paid by the Government.

HIS ELECTION AS U. S. SENATOR IN 1846.

In 1845, when James K. Polk, the President elect, tendered the State Department to James Buchanan, and that gentleman resigned his seat in the Senate of the United States, an election, to supply the vacancy, became necessary. The Democratic party having a majority in both branches of the Legislature, then in session, counted with confidence on selecting a Senator who would sustain the whole policy of the administration at Washington; but it became apparent, even before the President was installed in office, that the policy of his administration would be in conflict with the pledges given, in Pennsylvania, on the Tariff question, to secure his election. Great difficulty arose among the Democratic members, in consequence of this apprehended Punic faith, on the part of the new administration, the major portion of them being disposed to turn their backs upon their own solemn pledges during the campaign of 1844, while a minority of them were determined to maintain their own honor, and to refuse to lend themselves to any such breach of faith. George W. Woodward finally became the caucus nominee. His nomination was regarded as a Free Trade triumph, and rendered it possible for some other Democrat, known to be honestly devoted to the cherished policy of the State, to be elected, by a union of the Whigs and Americans, and those Democrats that were in favor of the Protective policy. In view of this condition of affairs, James Cooper, John P. Sanderson, Jasper E. Brady, Levi Kline, John C. Kunkel, and other Whig members of the Legislature, on the morning of the day fixed for the election, addressed a note to Gen. Cameron, propounding certain queries as to his views on the subject of the Tariff, and the course he would pursue if elected Senator. These queries being answered satisfactorily, the Whigs, and the Americans then representing the County of Philadelphia, went into the Convention with a determination to support him, in case he should receive a sufficient number of Democratic votes to secure his election. Judge Woodward received but fifty-four votes on the first ballot, being thirteen less than a majority of the whole. Gen. Cameron had eleven votes, all of whom were Democrats. Four more ballots were had, on the last of which, being the fifth, Gen. Cameron had sixty-seven votes, and was declared elected. This unexpected result caused great distraction among the Democracy. It proved a death blow to the further progress of Free Trade in the State, and led to an overwhelming defeat of those who thus sought to betray its interest, at the next succeeding election, in 1846.

HIS SERVICE IN THE SENATE.

Gen. Cameron was a member of the U. S. Senate from March, 1845, until March 4, 1849. During that period he was a member of a number of important committees of the body. He served, for a session or two, as chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, and was at the same time also a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs, that on Territories, and one or two others. He was, also, chairman of the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office, a member of the Committee on Printing, and that on Public Buildings. He not only distinguished himself as one of the most attentive, active, and useful business members, but acquired and wielded a personal influence in the body not excelled by any other member of it. He proved himself true to the great interests of his native State especially committed to his charge, and never wearied in the support of the principles on which he was elected. He not only boldly reflected, by his speeches and votes, the sentiments of the industrial classes whose rights

and interests were about being sacrificed, but he fearlessly exposed the treachery and fraud by which they were swindled into the support of those who proved themselves so unfaithful. No man ever returned among his constituents, at the end of his term, and was hailed with more hearty greetings of approval of his conduct than was he.

HIS NOMINATION FOR U. S. SENATOR IN 1855.

In 1855, the Whigs and Americans having, in the fall of 1854, by united action, elected a Governor, and secured both branches of the Legislature, he again became the caucus nominee for United States Senator. Owing to internal feuds and divisions among those having a majority, there was no election at the time fixed by law, and it was subsequently postponed until the succeeding session of the Legislature, when the Democrats in the meantime having obtained a majority, Ex-Governor Bigler was elected by them.

HIS ELECTION AS U. S. SENATOR, IN 1857.

In the winter of 1857, the entire opposition members of the Legislature again selected him as their candidate to fill the place of Senator Brodhead, whose term expired on the 4th of March, 1857. The Democratic caucus nominated Col. John W. Forney, with great confidence of success, but divisions in the party rendered it impossible to unite a sufficient number of members in his support to elect him. In this condition of things, three members, elected as Democrats, two from Schuylkill and one from York, counties in which Gen. Cameron possesses great strength and popularity, on account of his firm devotion to their industrial interests, found themselves obliged to defer to the pressure of sentiment upon them from home, and accordingly united with the opposition in his support, which secured his election for the second time to the Senate. He took his seat in the Senate on the 4th of March, 1857, and his course in that body, from that time to the present, has been in strict accordance with the views, and feelings, and interests of a large majority of the people of Pennsylvania. He has been made a member of some of the most important committees in the body, and his eminent practical business qualifications and habits have not only secured him an enviable influence in all matters of legislation, but given him a position as a practical Statesman that now attracts the attention of a large number of his countrymen to him, as pre-eminently fitted for the performance of the perplexing duties of the Chief Magistracy of the nation.

HIS DEVOTION TO THE PROTECTIVE POLICY.

Gen. Cameron has been all his life the consistent and devoted advocate of the protection of American labor. Though reared in the Democratic school of politics, his is not that Democracy which has arisen in these latter days, and which manifests a disposition to shape our legislation to suit foreign capitalists and manufacturers, instead of protecting and encouraging our own industrial pursuits. His position, on this subject, cannot be better described than in his own language, to be found in a speech delivered by him in the Senate, in 1846:—"I am proud," said he, "to call myself a Democrat. I am the son of a Democrat. I represent a State whose Democracy no one will doubt; and for one I must object to this mode of fixing principles on the party. I was taught in early life to believe that the Democratic party was the friend of the poor—of the laboring classes; that its principles were calculated to elevate the masses; but the principle of this

Southern Democracy would rob the poor man of his labor, and make him dependent on the capitalists of England for his scanty subsistence. Such was not the doctrine of such Democrats as Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, or Jackson."

Entertaining these views from the time he arrived at manhood, he ably and efficiently advocated the Democratic policy of Pennsylvania for the protection of American industry, while he had the editorial control of the State organ of the party at Harrisburg. During the memorable contests in Congress on this subject in 1823-4, and again in 1827-8, the editorial columns of his paper were filled with articles proving the Democratic character of a Tariff for the protection of American labor, and showing that no nation had ever flourished that did not encourage and protect its own labor, and develop its own resources.

HIS LETTER IN FAVOR OF THE TARIFF OF 1842.

The letter already referred to, in reply to one addressed to him by Messrs. Cooper, Brady, Sanderson, Kline, and other Whig members of the Legislature, at the time of his first election to the U. S. Senate, is as follows:—

Harrisburg, March 12, 1845.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your note of this date, in which you ask my answer to questions touching certain points of national policy. Your position, as members of the body to which the constitution has confided the election of the representatives of the State in the Senate of the United States, authorizes you to propound these questions, and, in my opinion, requires that I should frankly answer them. I have no difficulty in making my reply.

On the subjects to which they refer I have long since matured and avowed my opinions. During the recent Presidential election the Tariff of 1842 was much discussed. The Democratic party of this State took a decided stand in favor of this measure. The leading interests of the State are involved in its preservation. The people, without distinction of party, concur in desiring that its provisions should remain unaltered, and regard any attempt to change them as hazardous to the interests of American industry. Supported by the Democratic party of the State in my views, and feeling the importance of the measure to Pennsylvania, I have no hesitation in declaring that I am in favor of the Tariff of 1842, and if elected to the Senate of the United States, I will sustain it without change.

The amount received into the Treasury from the public lands will not, for many years, be of much importance. Whether the proceeds of such sales should be distributed among the States, is a question that, in my opinion, will not for a long period be of much practical moment. The public lands are held in trust, however, for the benefit of all the States. In my apprehension, the best application that this State can make of her share in that trust would be its employment in the discharge of the State debts. I am, therefore, in favor of the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, and if elected, will support that measure.

The failure of the Democratic members of the Legislature to unite on a candidate, may have induced your desire to learn the sentiments of the various gentlemen placed in nomination. This reply is merely a repetition of long-entertained and often-expressed sentiments. They are given without reserve, and in the spirit of frankness which I desire always to characterize my conduct.

I have the honor to be, with much respect,

SIMON CAMERON.

HIS SPEECH ON THE TARIFF, JULY 22, 1846.

Ably and faithfully did he maintain the views expressed in this letter on the floor of the Senate. In a speech from which a quotation has already been made, delivered by him in the Senate, July 22d, 1846, he spoke as follows:—

"I come here the representative of a State deeply interested in the development of our resources, and in fostering and protecting the industry of her citizens. A State which has expended more than one hundred and fifty millions of dollars in making those re-

sources available; a State which in two wars has expended more blood and more treasure in the common defence than any State in the Union; a State which has never asked any favors from the Union, and which has received as little benefit from it as any one in it;—even the fort which was built for the defence of her city, with the money of her own citizens, has been suffered to go to decay by the general government;—a State proverbial for the democracy of her sons, so much so that no Democratic President was ever elected without her vote; nay, one which never gave a vote against a Democratic candidate for the Presidency, until she believed there was a settled design to desert her dearly-cherished interests.

“You can, therefore, Mr. President, imagine my surprise when I find our time-honored Commonwealth charged with a want of democracy in her opposition to this bill. From one end of her wide domain to the other she does oppose it, and if I fail to show that she has abundant cause, it will not be for the want of defects in the bill itself. So far as she is concerned, it can produce evil, and evil only.

“The support of a system of protection for the labor of her citizens is with her not new. It is a lesson she learned from the fathers of the Republic, and which was practiced with uniform and unvarying consistency by all of her early settlers. Her sons have not, and I trust in God never will, prove recreant to the wholesome lessons of their ancestry. It is to this practice and to these lessons that she owes her present prosperity and fame.

“Go where you will, there is but one sentiment now pervading the public mind on this subject. It has grown with her growth, and strengthened with her strength; and there is a cry coming up now from her borders, echoed from every hill and from every valley; from her very bowels, as you saw the other day, by the petition which I presented from her hardy miners, whose habitations are under ground; from every village, from every workshop, from every farm-house the cry is heard, invoking us to interpose between them and ruin. Every Legislature for years has instructed her representatives here to adhere to her favorite policy; and no man has ever presumed to ask her favor without admitting the justice and propriety of her views upon this subject; and I may add, Mr. President, *woe betide the man who raises his suicidal hand against her*, now in the hour of her extremity.

“I have said her favor was never asked without a pledge to support her views. You know, sir, how it was in 1844. I need not tell you that you would not now occupy that chair but for the assurances—the oft-repeated assurances—that her policy would not be disturbed. You and I remember the scenes of that day. We cannot forget the flags and banners which were carried in the processions of her democracy pending the election which resulted in the triumph of our party. It cannot, and it ought not to be disguised, that but for these assurances to which I have alluded, that triumph never would have been obtained. I remember the anxiety which pervaded the minds of politicians until the publications of the Kane letter, and I cannot forget the pains that were taken by the leading men of the party to convince the people that it was evidence of an intention to protect our interests. Her confiding citizens gave their support in good faith, and they expected good faith in return. The letter was published in English and German, in every Democratic paper in the State, and in pamphlets by thousands. Every Democrat pointed to it as a satisfactory Tariff letter, and no Democrat doubted it. It is not saying too much to ascribe to that letter, mainly, the Democratic majority of the State. Surely, honorable men will not now, since the battle has been fought and the honors won by it, evade its responsibility, by saying that too liberal a construction was put upon it. If it was wrongly applied, there was time enough for its contradiction between the time of its publication and the election. The party majority in this Hall may be fairly attributed to that letter, and I ask honorable senators if they expect that majority can be attained if this bill shall become a law? I warn them now of the sudden and swift destruction which awaits us if Punie faith is to govern the counsels of the Democratic party. It is to avert what I believe would be a dire calamity—the prostration of Democratic principles—that I raise my voice to arrest the further progress of this bill.”

HIS REBUKE TO VICE PRESIDENT DALLAS.

In the same speech from which such copious extracts already have been made, after noticing a rumor that letters had been received from Pennsylvania advising the repeal of the Tariff of 1842, and saying that if such letters had been received, they must have been written by men who would barter principle for office, and see the whole State in ruin if they could only batten upon the offals of the Government, he concluded his remarks by administering the following withering rebuke to Vice President Dallas:—

“We are told out of the House that this bill is to become a law by the casting vote of the Vice President. I am happy to say that I have seen no evidence of such intention,

nor will I believe that there is such a design, until I am convinced by the evidence of my own senses. To all the inquiries that have been made of me I have said that it cannot be; that no native Pennsylvanian, honored with the trust and confidence of his fellow-citizens, could prove recreant to that trust and dishonor the State that gave him birth. His honorable name, and the connections of his ancestry with her history, forbid it. His own public acts and written sentiments forbid it. If, as has been said, this question is to be settled by the casting vote of the Vice President, he will not, as a wise man, adopt a bill which no Senator will father; but will rather, taking advantage of his high and honorable position, make one which shall contribute to the happiness of our people and the glory of our common country. Let him not be allured by the voice of flattery from the sunny south. No man can be strong abroad who is not strong at home. Before a public man risks a desperate leap, he should remember that political gratitude is prospective; that desertion of home, of friends, and of country, may be hailed by the winning party when the traitor is carrying in the flag of his country; but when the honors of the nation whom he has served are to be distributed, none are given to him.

"Will any man believe that a son of South Carolina, occupying that chair, elected under such circumstances, with the casting vote in his hands on this bill, would give that vote contrary to the almost unanimous wishes of his own State? And shall it be said that a Pennsylvanian has less attachment for his Commonwealth than a son of Carolina? I have said that I will not believe it, and as evidence that it cannot be so, I give, in conclusion, the following eloquent passage from a speech of the honorable George M. Dallas, when occupying the seat I now hold, on a question precisely similar to the one now before us."

EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH OF MR. DALLAS ON THE TARIFF OF 1832.

"I am inflexible, sir, as to nothing but adequate protection. The process of attaining that may undergo any mutation. Secure *that* to the home labor of this country and our opponents shall have, as far as my voice and suffrage can give it to them, a '*carte blanche*,' whereon to settle any arrangement or adjustment their intelligence may suggest. It might have been expected, not unreasonably, that they who desired change should tender their *projet*; that they would designate noxious particulars and intimate their remedies; that they would invoke the skill and assistance of practical and experienced observers on a subject with which few of us are familiar, and point with precision to such parts of the extensive system as can be modified without weakening or endangering the whole structure. They have forborne to do this. They demand an entire demolition. FREE TRADE is the burden of their eloquence, the golden fleece of their adventurous enterprise; the goal short of which they will not pause even to breathe. I cannot join their expedition for such object. An established policy—coeval, in the language of President Jackson, with our Government—believed by an immense majority of our people to be constitutional, wise, and expedient, may not be abruptly abandoned by Congress without a *treacherous* departure from duty, a *shameless* dereliction of sacred trust and confidence. To expect it is both extravagant and unkind."

APPROVAL OF HIS CONDUCT BY THE PEOPLE.

After the adjournment of Congress, and his return home, he was hailed everywhere as one who had been tried and found more than faithful. The demonstrations of approval were not confined to any particular political party, but all vied with each other in doing honor to him. The Whigs and the Democrats, at their respective county meetings, passed resolutions highly complimentary to him. Thus the Democratic Conferees of the Schuylkill Congressional District resolved: "That the ability and untiring exertions displayed by the Hon. Simon Cameron, in the Senate of the United States, in defence of American labor and industry, have placed his name in the front rank of Pennsylvania's favorite sons, and we greet him with that salutation so cheering to an honest representative, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'"—While the Whigs of Columbia and other counties, at the same time, passed such as the following: "Resolved, That as citizens of Pennsylvania, we have looked with pride and satisfaction to the honorable, faithful, untiring, yet unsuccessful exertions of the Hon. Simon Cameron, in the defence of his native State, during the pendency of M'Kay's British Tariff Bill before Congress, and however much we may differ on other questions

of public policy, as regards this one, we hail him as Pennsylvania's true friend and champion, standing in noble and honorable contrast to the silver-haired trickster, who, by his casting vote, sold his native State to the tender mercies of Man owners."

Public dinners were tendered to him in various parts of the State, as a testimony of regard for his services, all of which he declined. The answers to these invitations are too numerous to insert. The one addressed to the citizens of Danville, one of the most extensive iron manufacturing towns in the State, gives, however, so briefly and pertinently his views on the subject of the tariff as to justify its insertion at length. It is as follows :

Middletown, August 31, 1846.

GENTLEMEN :—Your letter, inviting me to partake of a public dinner at Danville, has been received, and while I attribute the high honor you design to confer on me to your kindness and the partiality arising from early associations, rather than to any merit I may possess, or any services I have performed, I am still profoundly grateful for it.

Such a public demonstration of your purpose is only due to the statesman of high reputation, earned by long and important services rendered his country. I can lay no claim to such distinction. The recent session of Congress was the first occasion of my connection with public affairs. I had no desire when I entered upon its duties to remain long in the public service, and I have now no ambition connected with official station, further than to perform my duty fearlessly and faithfully to the best of my abilities during the continuance of my term. It was my fortune to be in Congress when this revenue measure, which affects so vitally the interests of my native State, was under discussion, and connected as I am, in all my sympathies with her laborers and mechanics, I could not do otherwise than oppose with all my zeal and such ability as I have, a bill affecting so detrimentally their comfort and happiness, and through them the prosperity of the Commonwealth. I only regret that my exertions were not more successful.

My rule through life has been not to despond for the past, but to look with hope and confidence to the future, and to "persevere unto the end" in a good cause. If the friends of domestic industry pursue this course, we will compel a change of this obnoxious and ill-digested law at the next session. A little reflection will teach the poor but mistaken men among its advocates of their error, and the others will have to yield. Pennsylvania has strong claims upon the sympathies of her sister States, and she is too important to the interests of the confederacy to permit any of them to continue this wrong upon her, if she resists it boldly, steadily, and legally.

We may be surprised that South Carolina, which, in 1833, would have destroyed the Union, but for the firmness of General Jackson, should so soon after his death fix upon it the very principles upon which she based her nullification, and while we cannot approve her threatened treason, we may with profit follow the example of her determined perseverance. We have only to be true to ourselves, and we cannot fail to succeed in procuring a repeal of the law. A few months will show the want of wisdom in its principles and details, and prove its failure as a revenue measure. The very members who have forced it upon us, all of whom denied its paternity, will probably soon seek an excuse for its change. All thriftless persons are discontented with their own situations, and envious of the prosperity of their more frugal neighbors. Neither men nor States who do not work can be prosperous, and our Southern fellow-citizens will find that no reduction of the tariff will make them rich nor bring us down to their condition. They may retard our onward progress for a time, but no system of laws will destroy the ultimate prosperity of Pennsylvania. Until we can accomplish its repeal in a constitutional way, we must make the best of the law, and by greater economy and more intense labor, make up, in some degree, for the advantages which it takes from us and gives to the workmen of foreign countries. The farmers of the West will soon see that they have been deceived by the promised British market for their agricultural products, and that instead of higher prices they will find them reduced with the prostration of the home market hitherto furnished them by the manufactories of the North. Having thus learned the truth of the old-fashioned democratic doctrine, that agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and the mechanic arts are mutually dependent on each other, we may expect to see them again acting with their natural allies of the North for the common good.

With many thanks, gentlemen, for the honor you intended me, I pray you to excuse my acceptance of it. I shall, some time before the re-assembling of Congress, pay my accustomed annual visit to Columbia county, and it is my intention to spend some time about Danville, among your workmen, and in your mines and manufactories, to glean such

facts and information as may be useful in the next session, and I anticipate, while there the pleasure of taking many of you by the hand, at your own firesides.

With sentiments of respect, &c., &c.,

SIMON CAMERON.

To Messrs. Cooper, Boyd, Montgomery, Vastine, Donaldson, Petriken, McReynolds, Grove and others.

DECLINES TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

So handsomely and satisfactorily did Gen. Cameron acquit himself in the Senate, and so proudly aloft, above, and beyond the reach of the Administration clique who assailed him, had he placed himself, by his able opposition to the repeal of the Tariff of 1842, that the Democratic party began to turn its attention to him as its candidate for Governor, in 1847. The Democratic Convention of Northumberland County expressed itself in his favor, and appointed a committee to solicit him to consent to the use of his name; but he declined doing so, as will be perceived by the following letter addressed by him to that committee:

Middletown, September 26, 1846.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your letter conveying to me the resolution of the Democratic Convention of the County of Northumberland, nominating me for the office of Governor.

I feel greatly flattered with this compliment, coming from the county which presented the great and good Snyder to the Democracy of Pennsylvania, and conveyed to me as it is by gentlemen who have known me from my earliest boyhood. Whether in private or in public life, every good man must be gratified with evidences of friendship from those who know him best; and nothing could be more grateful to my feelings than this compliment from that steady, unwavering Democratic county. The Chief Magistracy of this great Commonwealth is a post which the ablest and proudest citizen might be glad to occupy. It should be the highest honor of the faithful public officer, to be carried with him into retirement as the reward of his services. I feel that I have no claim to it; and having recently been elevated to a high place, mainly to aid in the protection of the interests of my native State, I could not, in accordance with my sense of propriety, desert that post while those interests are in danger, for any personal distinction high or honorable as it might be. I beg you, therefore, gentlemen, to convey to the Democracy of Northumberland my gratitude for their kindness, and my respectful declination of the nomination. For yourselves, receive the assurance of my continued friendship.

SIMON CAMERON.

To Messrs. Hughes, Horton, Nicely, Teats, Parker, Maurer, and others, Committee, &c.

HIS POSITION ON THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

On this subject, Gen. Cameron occupies precisely the same position which John Sergeant, James Buchanan, and all the other eminent men, as well as the entire people of Pennsylvania, held and maintained in 1820, and have occupied from the formation of the Constitution until the introduction into Congress of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, by Judge Douglass. Recognizing all the compromises of the Constitution, and willing to concede to the South all the rights guaranteed to her by them, he cannot and will not lend himself to slavery beyond the requirements of those compromises. Entertaining these views, he recognizes the power of the Federal Government to restrict slavery within the limits in which it now exists, and deems it expedient to exercise that power should there be any occasion for it. Acting upon this principle, when in the Senate, during the Mexican war, he, though a Democrat, and acting generally with the Administration, made issue with it on this subject, and voted to prohibit the spread of slavery over the soil acquired from Mexico by that war. All the power and influence of the administration and of his party were brought to bear to force him to pursue a contrary course; but, true to the old fashioned Democratic faith of his native State, as he has ever proved himself on all other subjects,

so on this occasion, and on this subject, he resisted all the blandishments of power, and terror of party discipline, and voted in accordance with his own honest convictions and the well known and undoubted sentiments of the people of the State which he represented.

His speech in the Senate, on the 1st of March, 1847, just before giving his vote in favor of the non-extension of slavery proviso to the Three Million Loan Bill, explains in a very brief manner his views on the subject, and shows that he is no recent convert to the cause of free soil. In commencing his remarks, he gracefully alluded to the instructions the Legislature of Pennsylvania had given him on the subject, and declared, that while he fully recognized the doctrine of instructions, he would not blindly obey such instructions, on all occasions, in violation of his own honest convictions, and where public opinion itself was doubtful on the subject. He was, however, relieved from all embarrassment on this occasion, and proceeded to speak as follows :

"In the case before us, there is no room for doubt. The people of Pennsylvania are united in the wish, that no more slave territory should be acquired by this Confederacy ; and they fear that if this bill become a law, it will bring an accession of slavery with it. Their resolution is so clear, that there can be no doubt of the three million bill having been before the author of the instructions, when they were penned. They are in these words :

"*Resolved:* That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to vote against any measure whatever, by which our territory will accrue to the Union, unless, as a part of the fundamental law upon which any compact or treaty for this purpose is based, slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime, shall be forever prohibited."

"So united were the Legislature, that out of one hundred and thirty-three members in the two Houses, only three votes were recorded against the resolution. Its mover in the Legislature represents the same county which is the residence of Mr. Wilmot, the originator of the proviso in the other end of the Capitol. They are personal friends, and in this case they have gone with the current of public opinion upon the abstract question of extending slavery. Whether it was wise to engraft so exciting a question upon a bill claimed by the Executive as all important to a speedy and honorable termination of the war, time will determine. The people of my State will never interfere with the constitutional rights of their southern brethren. They would be among the first to pour out their blood and treasure to sustain the Union, or to protect from wrong the people of the Southern States. No man there desires to interfere with the local and peculiar institutions of the South, but very many of them believe that if left to themselves, the entire southern people will in due time, and in their own way, abolish the entire institution of slavery ; they think, too, that this great community of States may, like members of a partnership, before the purchase of new territory with the common funds of the firm, decide among themselves what use shall be made of the purchase. After the land shall have been bought, it will, in their opinion, be too late to limit its uses. He added that he could not waste the time of the Senate, at this late hour, near midnight, in dilating upon this subject."

HIS COURSE ON THE OREGON QUESTION.

A few words of explanation may not be out of place, here, to enable the reader the better to understand and appreciate Gen. Cameron's conduct on this question. One of the planks of the Platform, constructed by the Con-

vention which nominated Polk and Dallas, was, that the title of our Government to the whole of Oregon was clear and indisputable, and the rallying cry of the party, during the campaign, was "Fifty-Four-Forty, or Fight." But it so happened, when Congress assembled in December, 1846, Messrs. Calhoun, McDuffee, Yulee, and, in fact, the entire cotton-growing portion of the Administration members began to manifest weakness in the knees on the subject. War with England, and an abrupt close of the English market for their cotton, was seriously apprehended by them, and they were, therefore, disposed to shirk one of the issues made by themselves, on which Mr. Polk was elected. They accordingly united with the Whigs, and passed resolutions in the Senate, authorizing the President, *at his discretion*, to give the British Government notice of the intention of our Government to abrogate the treaty for the joint occupancy of that Territory. When these came up in the House, the majority of that body amended them by making it *obligatory* upon the President to give the notice. The Senate refused to concur in the amendments of the House, and a Committee of Conference was appointed.

Well knowing the character of the issue before the people, on the Oregon Question, and their decision upon it, Gen. Cameron would not follow in the wake of the cotton-growing Senators of his Party, and prove recreant to his own professions and those of the Party during the campaign. He acted on this question, as he has made it a principle of all his actions through life, by maintaining good faith to the people, and thereby preserving his own self-respect. The remarks made by him, just before he voted on the resolutions as agreed upon by the Committee of Conference, explain his views, and were as follows:—

"Mr. C. said he should vote for the report of the committee, and before he did so he wished to say a word or two in explanation of his vote. Mr. C. said he was in favor of a *plain notice*, and in every vote pending the termination of the question, he had been with the friends of it. Next, he was willing to take the notice which came from the House of Representatives, and had voted for it. Failing to get either of these, he had voted for the resolutions which had passed the Senate. He did so, because he considered it more important to the interests of the country, that the action of Congress on this important question should be indicated by unanimity than it was to have that action expressed in any peculiar form; and above all, he believed that a speedy settlement of the impending difficulties between the two countries could only be had by terminating the joint occupancy of the territory in dispute. Until a period was fixed at which the state of uncertainty must cease, he did not believe that the question of peace or war could be determined. The President, in his annual message, had asked for authority to give the notice to terminate the joint occupancy, under the treaty, and having full confidence in his integrity, capacity, and patriotism, Mr. C. was willing to trust the whole question in his hands.

"Mr. C. said he believed fully in our right to the whole country in dispute, that our title only terminates where the Russian line begins at 54° 40'; but he did not think this the proper time or place to argue the title. It could be better done by the Executive in arranging a treaty, or in insisting upon our rights. He had done so in the published correspondence. When a treaty should be agreed upon by the negotiators of the two countries, the Senate could revise their acts. This course Mr. C. thought would have been more respectful to the President, and in the end, better for the country. But as the defeat of the present notice would, in his opinion, be a defeat of all notice during the present session of Congress, he should vote for it without meaning to commit himself in favor of any treaty, which

should not secure to the United States, the whole of our just rights in Oregon."

Soon after this action of Congress, the British Minister was authorized by his Government to propose a Treaty, making the boundary on the line of 49 degrees. President Polk, being so fully committed to the 54-40 line, yet sympathizing with, and unwilling to become antagonistic to, the policy of the cotton-growing interest, hit upon the happy expedient of asking the advice of the Senate on the subject. The Senate, by a vote of 41 yeas to 14 nays, advised the acceptance of the proposition, Gen. Cameron voting in the negative, and thereby washing his hands from the deception practised upon the people.

HIS COURSE ON THE MEXICAN WAR.

After the declaration of war with Mexico, the course of Gen. Cameron, in the Senate, was to vote all the force and supplies necessary for its vigorous prosecution. In presenting the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, tendering their services to the Government, he availed himself of the occasion to express his views in favor of the most decisive possible action in support of the war, as the most likely mode of bringing it to a speedy termination. The following is a report of his remarks on the occasion:—

"He said that there were twenty thousand persons present; that men of all parties had forgotten their political predilections, and had come together to sustain the country in its emergency. The meeting had been held within sight of the building in which was signed that great charter of human rights, the Declaration of Independence; and he was glad to say that the spirit of '76 still remained there. Louisiana had first stepped out nobly to offer her troops and her money to aid the country in the approaching contest; and he felt proud of the spectacle presented by the great city of his native State, assembling her sons, without a dissenting voice, to sustain the constituted authorities in their vindication of the rights and the honor of the nation. Pennsylvania," he said, "had a muster-roll of two hundred and thirty thousand intelligent and hardy militia, and she has a volunteer force of thirty-two thousand men, armed, equipped, and drilled, ready for the field—every one of whom, he pledged himself, would be ready to march at the first tap of the drum, if the country should need their services. He would not detract from the merits of other States, all of whom would strive to be foremost in the race of patriotism; but if the war should continue, he ventured to say that the unpretending State which he had the honor in part to represent would, as she had twice done before, give more men and money to the cause of the common country than ever was given by any other State in the Union. No man would, in that State, inquire about the cause of war, but would all join the standard of the country, to bring to it a speedy and honorable termination. Pennsylvania would show to the world that she had in her mountains and in her valleys 'coal enough to warm all her friends, and iron enough to cool the enemies of her country.'"

BOUNTY TO THE VOLUNTEERS IN MEXICO.

Gen. Cameron, as early as Dec. 9, 1846, introduced a resolution in the Senate, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of granting 160 acres of land to each non-commissioned officer, musician, and private soldier, who volunteered to serve during the war with Mexico, and also of increasing the compensation

allowed by the War Department for the transportation and subsistence of the volunteer troops from their homes to the places of rendezvous in their different States. In offering this resolution, he made the following remarks :—

“He said that the reason for his asking of the Senate its early action on this resolution was, that the volunteers in the Pennsylvania regiment, which was the first regiment ready for service under the late call from the War Department, are now on their march. The compensation allowed to volunteers on their way to the place of rendezvous was entirely insufficient to enable them to reach their destination, it being only about fifty cents for every twenty miles. Some of these volunteers live as much as two or three hundred miles from the point where they are required. They are destitute of means of their own, and but for the kindness exhibited by their fellow-citizens would not have been able to proceed on their march. A great portion of the troops are now on the road, and he hoped that the Committee on Military Affairs would take early action on the subject.”

Gen. Cameron perseveringly continued, on all proper occasions, to urge the adoption of this measure, and to his active efforts in its support are those who served in Mexico mainly indebted for its final adoption.

HIS SUPPORT OF THE TARIFF OF 1842.

The remarks already given, which have been taken from his great speech, delivered in the Senate, July 22, 1846, than which no abler was made on the subject, are abundantly sufficient to show the very able and earnest resistance he made to the repeal of the Tariff of 1842. Finding, however, when the bill was ordered to a third reading, by the casting vote of Vice President Dallas, and that all hope of its defeat was thus cut off by the recreant hand of a Pennsylvanian, he arose, just before the bill was put on its final passage, and made a solemn and most emphatic protest against the great wrong about being perpetrated, by addressing the Senate as follows :

Mr. Cameron said, “He rose only to repeat his opposition to this bill, to enter his solemn protest against its passage, and to give notice that the word ‘*Repeal*,’ will this day go forth and continue until the loud voice of the laborers of the North shall compel their oppressors to respect them. This (he said) was no Bank question, in which the rich capitalists only were concerned. Here will be found the laborers and mechanics roused to indignation against those who care not how much they rob them of their comforts in the pursuit of a wild abstraction.

“If the bill had been made by a British statesman, it could not have discriminated more in favor of the English workmen, nor have done more wrong to our mechanics and manufacturers. He repeated, that from henceforth *repeal* would be the word among the Democracy of the North, and that it would not cease until it triumphed.”

THE KANE LETTER DECEPTION.

In presenting, on July 18th, 1846, the proceedings of a Democratic meeting at Sunbury, Pennsylvania, expressing opposition to the repeal of the Tariff of 1842, Gen. Cameron said :

“The panic of which honorable Senators spoke the other day had commenced, and was spreading in every part of that Commonwealth. But this was no Whig panic. It was a Democratic panic. The county in which this meeting was held is a Democratic county. It gives about 2500 votes, and a majority to the

Democratic party, in great contests, of near 1200. Northampton county, another decided Democratic county, was here protesting against the passage of the Tariff bill; these people, these Democrats, feared that its passage would destroy their business, prostrate the Democratic party, and beggar their families. Such fears might cause a panic with the honest and best. Good 'Old Berks,' is here also by a representation of her sons. That county is the stronghold of Democracy. Of her 10,000 votes, she gives often a Democratic majority of 4,000. Her citizens are a steady, industrious people, who are not easily excited. They are generally agriculturists, who are content with their peaceful employment, and whose industry and frugality have made them rich. No common danger would alarm her; but situated as she is on the verge of the great coal-field of Pennsylvania, she has daily evidences of the comfort and happiness its mines dispense among the laborers and mechanics of the country round about, and of the wealth which it has sent among them in exchange for the products of their farms. No one can charge them with aiding in a 'Whig panic.' Their Democracy is undoubted and beyond reproach. It is known throughout the Union; and thrice has it saved the Democratic party of the Union. Her sons come here not to create a panic, but to speak with Democrats in the Senate, and in other high places; as Democrats may speak to those whom by their votes they have elevated; to tell them how this new principle in legislation will affect their interests, and to get Democrats here to pause before they ruin our great State, and take from our laboring people, who cannot come here, their employment, and from their families their bread. Such a panic as the passage of this bill will create, would, he repeated, be no 'Whig panic.' He said that we had heard, in a recent discussion, remarks in favor of the claims of Tennessee for money due her citizens. The claims of Massachusetts had also been spoken of; and claims due Georgia and New Hampshire had been urged, and some of them paid. Pennsylvania, he was proud to say, had no claims upon the treasury of the Union; she asked for no help from the treasury; she was willing to work for her living, and asked only to be let alone."

Mr. Webster made some comments on the subject. He said he had been in Pennsylvania in October, 1844, and the three favorites he had seen emblazoned on the banners of the Democratic party were, *Polk, Dallas, and the Tariff of 1842*. He would ask Mr. Cameron whether he had not seen these banners?

MR. CAMERON: "I answer the Senator with great pleasure, I attended perhaps every Democratic meeting within my reach in that State—and some of them were at places one hundred and fifty miles distant from my home—in order to support the great cause of Democracy, and at all these meetings the watchwords and the mottoes were, 'Polk,' 'Dallas,' and (before his lamented death) 'Muhlenburg,' and 'The Tariff of 1842.' And after the death of our candidate for the gubernatorial chair, they were 'Polk,' 'Dallas,' 'Shunk,' and the 'Tariff of 1842.' Neither of the three, sir, would have got the vote of Pennsylvania without the last, 'The Tariff of 1842.' Much as we disliked Mr. Clay, and sincerely attached as we were to the Democratic party, all would have gone before we would have relinquished 'The Tariff of 1842.'"

The following report of the proceedings of the U. S. Senate, July 23, 1846, copied from the *National Intelligencer*, shows the fraud practised upon the people of Pennsylvania, in 1844, by those who presented James K. Polk as the friend of the protection of Home Labor, and subsequently united with him in making war upon the Tariff of 1842. Those proceedings also show, that Gen. Cameron was not one of these traitors to the interests of the American

Laborers, but that he ably and fearlessly exposed the fraud, and vindicated the working men of his State from the slanderous attacks made upon them. The following memorials and petitions were presented and appropriately referred:

Mr. CAMERON: Various petitions from Philadelphia, Carbon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill counties, signed by persons engaged in the coal and iron business, against any alteration in the tariff laws. Also, the proceedings of a meeting held in Norristown, against the passage of the tariff bill.

Mr. C. said these petitions were all from persons actually engaged in the business, and they fear the entire destruction of their business. In proof of what he had said the other day, that these petitions were from Democrats, he stated that every county from which they had come, had given a Democratic majority in 1844. To prove this further, he gave in detail the Democratic majorities of the coal and iron counties of Pennsylvania:—

Berks county gave Polk a majority of	4,678
Centre co. “ “ 	728
Columbia co. “ “ 	1,629
Clarion co. “ “ 	826
Lycoming co. “ “ 	617
Monroe co. “ “ 	1,394
Northumberland co. “ “ 	945
Northampton co. “ “ 	1,089
Perry co. “ “ 	990
Schuylkill co. “ “ 	847
Venange co. “ “ 	922

14,665

The whole Democratic majority of the State of Pennsylvania was something over 5,000; and it will be seen, therefore, that these counties sustain the Democracy of the State.

The town of Norristown was not in the coal or iron region. It was a manufacturing town, and owed much of its prosperity to the large cotton manufactories which had sprung up under our tariff laws, and which gave to its neighborhood a market for its agricultural products. In 1840 its population was about 2,500—it now contains over 5,000. Montgomery county gives a large and decided Democratic majority.

Mr. SEVIER said he was sorry to see the Senator from Pennsylvania engaged in panic-making this morning; but, to do the Senator justice, he must say that he did it with a pleasant smile, as though it was a first-rate *good joke*. They had heard a good deal about coincidences; there was something like a coincidence in the course of proceeding here; the first thing upon the meeting of the Senate was to have prayers by the Chaplain, then the reading of the journal, and next an hour and a-half was to be consumed in reciting a sort of FUNERAL DIRGE FROM THE PENSIONERS OF PENNSYLVANIA. He had sat quietly and patiently, hitherto, while all this was going on, because the Senator himself seemed to treat the matter as an *excellent joke*. Was there a man in Pennsylvania, he would ask, was there a *single man of intelligence* in that State who did not at the time of the last Presidential election, KNOW PERFECTLY WELL what the opinions of Mr. Polk were in regard to the Tariff? WAS THERE A MAN WHO DID NOT KNOW THAT HE WAS A FREE TRADE MAN?

[Mr. ARCHER: They thought him a better tariff man than Mr. Clay.]

No State had been more thoroughgoing than Pennsylvania in her opposition to chartered privileges. Yet they were now told that unless this high protective act of 1842 remained, they were going to be entirely ruined. *Did Pennsylvania expect other States to pay her debts?* No—such were not their good old Dutch democratic principles. He had heard it said that under the Act of 1842, one man, formerly a journeyman blacksmith, in Pennsylvania, had as many as nine hundred laborers in his employment. How many would he have if left to go on two or three years longer at that rate? He would soon have the control of every man in the State. If in two years time this journeyman blacksmith had raised a force of nine hundred men, how long would it take him to get under his power and authority the whole State? Pennsylvania had made no complaints heretofore. He believed she never had been and never would be any other than Democratic.

Mr. CAMERON rose, and in reply to the remarks of the Senator from Arkansas, said that he always smiled when his friend, the Senator from Arkansas, addressed the Senate on this subject. His wit was so irresistible that it excited his risible faculties, no matter how sober the mood in which it found him. But he could not permit his friend to charge

his State or her citizens with being dependants or pensioners on the Government. They were not like Arkansas, and other States that he could name, that were constantly appealing to Congress for aid from the public Treasury; for whose benefit some twenty bills were now on our files asking for aid; and for whose benefit they had been called upon only yesterday for some \$50,000, without even a voucher, except the assertion that the money had been drawn for and expended. The Senator from Arkansas, he said, also did him injustice in quoting his remarks of yesterday. He did not say that a single person in Pennsylvania controlled nine hundred workmen. The workmen of that State were not controlled by their employers. They were Freemen, and they could stand erect before their God, without being controlled by any one. The Senator from Arkansas has in this much mistaken the character of these petitioners, when he compared them to the slave labor of the South. The laborers of Pennsylvania were white men—they were freemen—they were intelligent men, and they ask no favors from the Government but to be let alone in the enjoyment of their labor.

The Senator from Arkansas had charged him (Mr. C. said) with acting on this question with the Whig Senator from Massachusetts. He admitted that on this question they were together; but he would remind that honorable Senator of what seemed to have escaped his memory—that he and the honorable Senator from Massachusetts had stood shoulder to shoulder on a question which was, perhaps, of still greater magnitude than this; one which dismembered the nation—which took from this country and gave to the British nation several degrees of latitude in the Oregon country. He wished his friend to reconcile that coalition before he charged other Senators with acting in the company of Whigs. He (Mr. C.) was acting with the Democracy of his own State, and he desired to learn no new democracy from gentlemen who compared his laboring fellow-citizen with the negro laborers of the South.

The debate was continued, and considerable sparring took place between Messrs. Crittenden, Sevier, and Reverdy Johnson, when it was closed by the following:—

MR. STURGEON said he had not intended to say a word in relation to this subject, but he felt constrained to make a single remark, which was, the Tariff of 1842 certainly entered into the contest at the Presidential election; but it was not the only question which entered into that contest, nor was it the most prominent. He had never considered Mr. Polk a free trade man, in the broad sense of the term, and most undoubtedly the people of Pennsylvania, under the construction given to the Kane letter, considered him a tariff man, so far as to give protection to the manufacturing and commercial interests of the country. His own doctrine in regard to the tariff, and he believed it was the Democratic doctrine of Pennsylvania, was a tariff for revenue, with discrimination for protection. He was not certain that the Tariff of 1842 was the right tariff, but he was not for changing it at a time when they were under the necessity of borrowing money to supply the wants of the Government.

MR. J. M. CLAYTON desired to know from the Senator from Pennsylvania whether he believed that the State of Pennsylvania would have voted for Mr. Polk if it had been supposed that he would recommend the passage of such a bill as this?

MR. STURGEON replied that it was impossible for him to tell how a majority would have voted in such a case.

MR. CLAYTON: I ask the gentleman's opinion.

MR. STURGEON: There are between three and four hundred thousand voters in Pennsylvania; how many would have voted for Mr. Polk under this view of the case, and how many would not, it is, of course, impossible for me to say.

MR. CLAYTON: The honorable Senator will not give it as his opinion, then, that the State would have gone for Mr. Polk. I think the honorable Senator is right not to venture such an opinion. I think no intelligent man would venture such an opinion. There were undoubtedly other questions entering into the Presidential contest besides the tariff. But I think that no man knows better than the honorable Senator himself that it was upon this great and absorbing question chiefly that the election turned.

Not deterred by the sneers and jibes of Senator Sevier, he took occasion again, July 25th, 1846, in presenting the proceedings of a Democratic meeting in Wyoming valley, to explain the character of that meeting. He said:—

“That he had presented many petitions and memorials from the laborers in the coal mines, and at the iron establishments of his State. This voice came from a different quarter. The panic of

which gentlemen spoke the other day, had passed over the mountains, and reached the peaceful valley of Wyoming. The gentlemen who took part in the meeting were, many of them, men retired from business, who had no interest in the question, except that which every good man has in the prosperity of those around him. The President of the meeting, Mr. Hollenback, was the son of one of the early settlers of the valley. He was a Democrat, honored and respected by all around him. Gen. Ross, one of the Vice Presidents, was the son of one of the early defenders of the soil which the son inherits, whose youthful blood was freely spilled in achieving our liberties, and he is a man so pure that no one dare assail him. Judge Kidder, another of them, is a man of learning, who, for his virtues, was exalted to the head of one of our judicial districts. All of them are men admired and beloved in their neighborhood; and all of them have been honored with public trust by the Democratic party. Wilkesbarre is the residence of Hendrick B. Wright, the President of the Baltimore Convention, of which so much has been said here in connection with the passage of this bill. Mr. Wright took part in the meeting, made a speech, and united fully in the proceedings. His Democracy, certainly, will not be doubted, while all men admit the efficient part he took in the Baltimore Convention. These proceedings tell you plainly, that the nominees of the party could not have succeeded in 1844, if it had not have been believed they would be friendly to the labor and industry of the country. They tell you, too, in plain language, that the vote of Pennsylvania would not have been given to them without this belief. They tell you, too, of the danger of arousing the indignation of the Democracy of that great State. He repeated that he wished Senators to listen to this voice from the Democracy of the North."

HIS EFFORTS TO AMEND THE TARIFF OF 1846.

On the 5th of January, 1847, Gen. Cameron submitted a resolution, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to report on what articles embraced in the Tariff of 1846 the duties could be increased beyond existing rates so as to augment the revenue, to what extent the duties would be increased, and what additional revenue would accrue therefrom. He gave his reasons, at some length, for offering this resolution, pointing out the glaring defects of the existing tariff law, and how these might be remedied. Senator Breese, of Illinois, undertook to lecture Gen. Cameron for the course pursued by him, which brought the latter again to his feet, and elicited from him the following tart reply:—

"Mr. Cameron, in reply to the honorable Senator from Illinois, said he was somewhat surprised at his remarks. For himself, he would only say, that he had not followed the example of that Senator in making long and useless speeches. He had troubled the Senate only when he had something to say; and hereafter, whenever he felt it his duty to address the Senate, he should do so, though he might receive the admonitory reproof of that very learned and distinguished Senator. In the present case, he only wanted a plain answer, from the Secretary of the Treasury, to a plain question. He was willing to admit the ability of that high officer, and he was anxious to get his opinion upon a subject which greatly interested the people of his State; and when it is procured, he will be happy if the Secretary should receive the aid of the very able Senator from Illinois. He was particularly anxious to have such information on this subject as would enable us to provide a revenue to conduct this war efficiently. His State felt deeply interested in having the army well supplied. His friends—his neighbors and

constituents—has filled its ranks. She had not only given the regiment called for, but she had added a second, and she had even sent a company of fine young men to fill up the quota of chivalrous Virginia. Of the five thousand men enlisted last year, she had furnished three thousand from her citizens.”

The resolution was adopted, and there the matter ended. No further action was had during the remainder of the session, which closed March 4, 1847. At the next session, on the 2d of February, 1849, he took occasion, in presenting several hundred petitions asking for an increase of the tariff, to express his opinion on the subject. He referred to the distress brought upon the manufacturing and mining districts, and expressed himself as follows:—

“On the necessity of protection to the great interests of Pennsylvania, *my mind has undergone no change.* The development of our manufactures and our mines, with the markets their products have furnished to our farmers, has given our great State the high position it holds in the Union. They have filled our mountains and our valleys with an industrious and happy people, and they will, if properly encouraged, every year add to our wealth and our happiness. We were told last fall, that when the election was over, if the Whig party should succeed, a change would take place, and we should get back the Tariff of 1842. Well, there is a majority in the other House—where a tariff bill only can originate—of that party; and, although the session has two of the three months allotted to it already consumed, no bill has come here which hints at a change in the system. I desire to make no charges of neglect, but to say that I shall be most happy to co-operate with them in modifying the Tariff of 1846 as soon as they shall give me an opportunity. I shall go with them, as far as any gentleman here, to give proper protection to all the great interests of the country.”

THE LECOMPTON CONSTITUTION.

When this measure was before the Senate, April 30, 1858, Gen. Cameron, before recording his vote against it, spoke as follows:—

“Before the vote is taken, I desire to say a word or two in relation to my own course. It was my intention, at an early part of the session, to say something upon the general subject of Kansas affairs; but I am, as you all know, not much of a speaker, having but little capacity that way, and no taste for it. I often felt disposed to take a part in the debate, but when I proposed to do so, I deferred to others; and sometimes, when I felt like going on, I found that some gentleman was discussing the question better than I could hope to do. I rise at this time only to say that I disapprove of the proposition now before the Senate, much more than I did of the original attempt to force on the people of Kansas a constitution which they were unwilling to take. The original bill was a plain proposition, for which men might have voted honestly, without subjecting their motives to censure. This I look upon as a very different affair. This, to my mind, is a trick to impose upon weak men, or to enable corrupt men to make the impression upon their constituents at home that they have been acting honestly. Still, I should have said nothing on this subject now, if my respected colleague had not been in such hot haste to announce to the Senator from New York, while he was discussing the proposition, that the vote had been carried in the other House, against the wishes of the freemen of Kansas. His act was so different from what I expected from an honorable Senator from Pennsylvania, that I was surprised at it. I have always, heretofore, understood that no man in the whole State of Pennsylvania was more positive and decided

in the expression of his belief, before his election, that the people of Kansas would not only be a free State, but that she should not have a State Constitution at all unless it should be voted for by a majority of her citizens. His whole course in life, until he came here, was in favor of freemen and of the free labor of the Northern States. His own history was such as naturally to make him an advocate of freemen and free labor. Why he has changed his course here, is no business of mine; but it does seem to me to be in bad taste that he should act as he does, knowing, as he certainly does, that not only the whole Opposition party in Pennsylvania, but a very large majority of the party to which he belongs in that State, are opposed to the measure, and opposed to the conduct of the President of the United States in regard to it; and I cannot permit him to come here and make the impression that he believes the people of Pennsylvania are in favor of it; nor can I remain quiet, much as I dislike to talk in public, when the impression is attempted to be made that the people of Pennsylvania are with him or with the President of the United States upon this subject. If the vote were to be taken to-morrow, the people of Pennsylvania, by a majority of a hundred thousand, would decide that the President of the United States had deceived them in regard to this matter, and would prove, also, that my colleague is misrepresenting his constituents on this great question.

"The people of Pennsylvania are conservative, and on all questions connected with slavery they have always taken a moderate course; but, sir, I tell you that if any man, who was in their confidence in the year 1856, could have convinced them that, by any possible means, a constitution could be forced upon the people of Kansas, in opposition to their wishes, and without a vote of the people, Mr. Buchanan could never have received the electoral vote of Pennsylvania. He owes it to the conduct of himself and the active influence of his friends all over the State, asserting that by nature Kansas must be free, and that no man would dare, no matter what his position was, to attempt to put upon her a constitution unless her people had the free and full right to vote for or against it. The President himself thought so until lately. Everybody knows that so late as the 7th of July last, he wrote a letter to a distinguished man in Kansas, telling him that the constitution must be submitted to the people of the Territory for their fair and free vote, or it would not be adopted or sanctioned by the Government.

"I repeat that I do not now desire to occupy the time of the Senate, now. I am desirous that the vote shall be taken. A majority, by some means or other, has decided against us in the other House; the majority here we know is against us, and it is idle to talk when a strong majority will vote against us."

HIS SUPPORT OF RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Gen. Cameron's political principles, to use his own language on one occasion, "have always been in favor of the American System." While in the Senate, all his votes were not only in favor of encouraging Home Labor, but of promoting the cause of internal improvements. He uniformly supported bills, by his influence and vote, for the improvement of our Rivers and Harbors.

MAINTAINING THE RIGHT OF PETITION.

Gen. Cameron has ever been the consistent advocate of the rights of the people, and during the long continued opposition of the party to which he

belonged, to reception of petitions in Congress on the subject of slavery, he steadily maintained and contended for the right of the people to be heard, by their servants, on all subjects. All his votes while in the Senate were in favor of the reception of these petitions, and against the unrepugnant and tyrannical course of the representatives of slavery on this subject.

FAVORING THE ABOLITION OF FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.

Averse to tyranny in all its forms, and sympathizing strongly with the brave tars in the Naval Service, who were but too often unjustly and inhumanly flogged, he took a decided part in the Senate in favor of the abolition of that barbarous practice. While humanity is lifting up her voice for every other class, he was unwilling that the poor sailor alone should be unprotected from tyranny, and he enthusiastically espoused his cause, and came to his rescue.

HIS ADVOCACY OF A SYSTEM OF CHEAP POSTAGE.

A system of Cheap Postage, and the free circulation by mail, of the newspapers in the counties in which they are published, has ever been a favorite policy with Gen. Cameron, and he actively exerted himself, and successfully to some extent, in establishing such a system.

HIS SUPPORT OF THE IRISH AND SCOTCH RELIEF BILL.

The Bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Crittenden, in 1847, providing for some relief to the famishing people of Ireland and Scotland, received his earnest support. To the calls of humanity from whatever source they may come, his sympathies are ever alive and ready to respond with a liberal hand.

HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE RETIRED NAVAL OFFICERS.

On the 13th of January, 1858, while the subject of the dropped and retired Naval officers was under discussion, Gen. Cameron availed himself of the opportunity to express his views as follows :

“Mr. President, I did not intend to say a word on this subject, nor to do more than by a silent vote to endeavor to do justice to these people who I think have been wronged ; but I cannot help rising for the purpose of thanking the Senator from New Hampshire, for the just tribute he has paid to that great man—a native and a citizen of my own State—who is justly the head of the Navy. Sir, without ‘Old Stewart’ you would have no naval history at all. He has done more for the renown of the navy than all the men who lived before him, or in his lifetime ; and yet that man has been stricken down and disgraced in old age. Instead of thus disgracing him, we ought to have paid him some such honor as we paid Gen. Scott, for his great services in the army. If we have it not, we ought to have created the rank of Admiral, and conferred it on Commodore Stewart. But instead that old man has been disgraced in his old age.

I shall vote for the motion of the Senator from Virginia to reconsider the amendment of his colleague, for the purpose, as I hope, of doing justice to all these people ; for, when you have once confided this discretion to the hands of the President, there will be no prejudice, and ultimately every man will be restored to his proper place. When these gentlemen entered into the service of their country, we made a contract with them, an implied contract, that

so long as they behaved themselves well, they should be continued in the service, and be promoted as often as opportunities offered. In place of that, after many of them had spent almost the whole useful part of their lives in the service of the country, we turned them out to pick up their living as best they can. We have treated them as a parcel of old stage-horses; we have turned them out to starve after we have used their manhood."

HIS SPEECH IN FAVOR OF MORE ADEQUATE PROTECTION THAN IS
AFFORDED BY THE PRESENT TARIFF.

Gen. Cameron, in presenting a petition from laboring men of Pennsylvania, June 1st, 1858, took occasion to express his views in favor of more adequate protection to the industrial pursuits of the petitioners, as follows:

"I am requested to present a petition, signed by a large number of laboring men engaged in the manufacture of iron, in Pennsylvania. I receive a great many letters daily from persons of this class, and I will say here what will save me the trouble of writing a great many letters. They think the Congress of the United States can relieve them from all their troubles. There never has been a time, in the history of the iron business of Pennsylvania, when there was so much real distress among the laboring men of my State—the men who do the work—the men who go to the forge before daylight, and remain there after the moon has risen—as there is at present. It is not a complaint now on the part of the capitalists. Men of capital—men of fortune, can take care of themselves: capital can always take care of itself; labor, poverty, indigence, want, always need sympathy and protection.

These persons reside in the town of Norristown, on the Schuylkill river, some twenty miles above Philadelphia. The river Schuylkill is traversed on both sides by a railroad, one extending some twenty or thirty miles, another one hundred miles. On one side of the river is a canal. All these works have been made for the purpose of conveying coal and iron to the place of manufacture and sale. The county of Schuylkill, the great coal deposit of Pennsylvania, has a population of some eighty or ninety thousand people, all of which has grown up within the last twenty-five years.

At this time, the whole laboring population engaged in the iron and coal business of the country extending from Philadelphia to the mountains of Schuylkill county, are entirely idle; the boats are tied up, the locomotives are in a great measure standing still; and the laborers are running about hunting for employment and hunting food. These are the persons who complain,—they think that Congress can relieve them. I have told them, and I have written to them, that they have the power in their own hands.

The laboring men of this country are powerful for good always. They do control when they think proper, and I think the time is coming when they will control the politics of this country. I tell them that before they can get proper protection they must change the majority in this Senate, they must change the majority in the other House of Congress, and above all, they must change the occupant of the White House, who is the dispenser of the power which controls the legislation of this country. In place of gentlemen who sneer when we talk about protection, they must send men here who know something of the wants, something of the interests, something of the usefulness of the laboring men.

Hitherto, they have not acted as if they cared for their own interests; while they talked about a tariff which would guard their labor from competition with the pauper labor of Europe, they would go to the elections under

some ward leader, and vote for men to represent them here and elsewhere who cared only for party drill, and who had no interest above party success. This system they must change if they hope for success. I think the laboring men of Pennsylvania, at least, are now beginning to put their shoulders to the wheel, and I believe they will make such a noise in next October, as will alarm the gentlemen over the country who laugh at them.

The canals, railroads, and mining operations of this region of country have cost more than a hundred millions of dollars; the furnaces and other works connected with the manufacture of iron, an enormous sum; and the people interested in the coal and iron business, directly or indirectly, amount to more than three hundred thousand souls.

Since 1855 there has been a blight upon the business, growing out of the unwise legislation of Congress, which has really protected the iron of England, Russia, and Sweden, and thus taken the labor from our own workmen.

The iron interest of Pennsylvania, in which these men are employed, commenced in 1820, with a production of only two thousand tons. In 1855, when it was up to its greatest extent, the production was a million tons of pig metal. The annual produce of coal in Schuylkill county alone, in 1855, amounted in value to \$20,000,000. When it is known that it requires two tons of coal to make one ton of iron, you can imagine the number of persons who rely for their daily bread on the production of coal and iron. Iron, in its native mountains, is worth but fifty cents a ton; when it is worked into pig metal, it ranges from twenty to thirty, and sometimes to forty dollars a ton, and when worked into its various uses, it frequently amounts to many hundred dollars a ton. I have said that these people have the power in their own hands. I am speaking to them, now, and I wish them to exercise the power they have. I cannot help them, much as I desire to do so, nor can any of their friends here; but when they go to work, as men determined to succeed should do, I have no doubt they will get protection.

The people in this valley, and on the slope of the Schuylkill mountains, have votes enough to change and control the politics of the Union; for as Pennsylvania goes, so goes the Union, in all great elections; and their votes can at all times decide the politics of Pennsylvania. Let them exercise the power wisely, and they will no longer be without plenty of work and good prices."

HIS DEVOTION TO FRIENDS.

A very prominent and marked feature in Gen. Cameron's character, which has secured him so many ardent and attached friends, and reflects so much credit upon him as a man, is his unwavering devotion to those to whom he feels himself under obligations for acts of kindness received at their hands. As an illustration of this noble trait of character, reference need only be made to his course in the Senate, whenever he could, consistently with his duties, do a kind service to Messrs. Gales and Seaton, the publishers of the *National Intelligencer*. The kind treatment which he received from those gentlemen, while in their employ as a journeyman printer, made an enduring impression upon his heart; and, acting under that deep sense of gratitude, which is ever exhibited by him towards those who have served him kindly, he has, on the floor of the Senate, on all occasions, stood forth as the friend and defender of Messrs. Gales and Seaton. A speech made by him in the Senate, June 2d, 1858, shows this to be the case, and may not be out of place in this connection. It is as follows:—

"I have opposed the increase of expenditures in this House from the commencement, and I have been particularly desirous of reducing the amount of public printing. If this were any ordinary document, I should certainly oppose it; but it is of a different character. As has been properly stated by the gentlemen who have preceded me, it is a work which will some day or other be published. It is only a question of time. Then, it is to decide whether these gentlemen, who have had charge of the former part of the work, shall continue it, or some other gentleman, or some other gentlemen, who may not be so properly qualified or faithful. It is useless for me to say anything of the character of these gentlemen. They are known to everybody. There is hardly a man in the United States who does not know Gales and Seaton by reputation; but to the members of the printing business, the editorial corps, as we call ourselves, they are especially known. In very early life I was in their employment, and there are no better men in the world than both of those gentlemen. As printers, as editors, their history is known to the whole country, perhaps to the world, but as men they are not so well known. These gentlemen have expended the whole labor of their lives in doing good. No men that I have ever been acquainted with have so much of kindness, so much of generosity, and so much of benevolence.

"I could recount fifty instances of men going into their office when it was inconvenient to them to part with any portion of their means; and I have never seen a man go out of that office without receiving some aid and comfort. I remember a case, which occurs to me at this moment. Thirty years ago, or more, there came into the printing office of Gales and Seaton, a pale, emaciated, sickly-looking man, who seemed to be on the verge of dissolution. He called on the foreman for employment. He was poor, sick, and had no money. The foreman said to him, rather sharply, 'I am sorry for it, but I have no work to give.' He left the printing office. At the door, he met Mr. Gales. He looked so miserable, that he attracted the attention of Mr. Gales, who said, 'My good man, what is the matter with you?' 'Why, sir,' he replied, 'I am very sick, and I have been here to get work, and the foreman says he cannot give me any.' 'Oh,' said Mr. Gales, 'he has forgotten; we never turn a man out of this house who is sick. Go in, and I will find something for you to do.' That act of kindness saved that man's life, and I have traced him through his history since. I saw him, afterwards, a learned member of the bar of his own State, a member of the Legislature, a Judge of the Court, a member of Congress, and now a Supreme Judge in one of the States of this Union.

"That is but one of the instances of the kindness of these people. Their whole life has been spent in doing good. You can employ nobody who will do this work so faithfully as they will; probably nobody can do it so well. That it will be done hereafter, there can be no doubt. It is only a question as to time, then. Under the lead of my respected friend, the Chairman of the Committee on Printing, we have already saved, on the cost of printing documents ordered previous to this session, over three hundred and sixty thousand dollars. I think the Senator from Arkansas will bear me out in that. The expense of printing will be, probably, this year, eight or nine hundred thousand dollars less than several years past. It seems to me that that, and other reasons, show this to be the proper time for this work. I confess I have more personal feeling in this matter, because I know these men are not only men of intellect, but men of heart; and I never saw a man of kind heart who was not a good citizen. I have scarcely ever seen appeals in favor of men of generosity and benevolence, such as these men

are, that did not meet a response from generous men, such as this body is composed of."

HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE LABORING CLASSES.

The devotion of Gen. Cameron to what may be truly characterized as the laboring men's policy, in the administration of the general government, may justify allusion here to the fact that he is himself, in a great measure, the embodiment of that policy, and a happy illustration of its beneficent effects. He is emphatically from the ranks of the people. For all that he has and is, he is indebted, under the blessing of God, to his own manly courage and indomitable will and energy. Born only to an inheritance of poverty and obscurity, he struggled bravely with difficulties that would have appalled and crushed a less daring spirit and resolute heart. Conscious that he is indebted to that noble policy which guards and protects the poor man's industry, for the laurels which he has won for himself, he could not, to be true to himself, be otherwise than he is—a champion of it. In the able speech delivered by him in the Senate, July 22, 1846, against the enactment of the Tariff of 1846, he frankly expresses himself as follows on this subject:—

"What I have done, has been with a view of showing the great importance of this trade, now threatened with destruction, with no motive, that I can see, unless it be to build up in the South a lordly aristocracy, who have no conception of the dignity of labor. It shall not be said hereafter that this calamity was brought upon the laboring men of my country, without all the effort in my power to prevent it. My sympathies are with these people. I come from among the children of toil, and, by constant application and honest labor, have reached the proud position I occupy to-day. The best legacy that I could desire to leave my children, would be the fact that I had contributed to defeat a measure fraught, as I believe this is, with calamity to those with whom I have mingled all my life. These laboring men are mostly Democrats. Their employers are frequently of the opposite politics; yet, with the freedom and independence that I hope will ever characterize the yeomanry of this land, they vote entirely untrammelled. They will be surprised to be told, now, that the doctrine of a protective tariff, which they have always believed in and sustained, is not democratic.

"What American citizen can desire to see his fellow-citizens brought down to a level with the pauper labor of Europe? What makes our country great, but the industry, the intelligence, the honest enterprise of the men whose means of living is to be taken from them by this bill? In what country, under heaven, has the man who toils for his daily bread the right to say who shall make and administer his laws? Where else is the proud spectacle presented, of the laboring man approaching the ballot-box free and without restraint? In what other country can the journeyman mechanic reach the Senate Chamber? And yet, this bill seems to have no other contemplation of the laboring man here, than as the pauper labor of Europe."

HE IS THE ADVOCATE OF PROGRESS, YET CONSERVATIVE.

A Democrat by birth, education, and training, in all his principles, feelings, and habits, fully understanding the temper and condition of the laboring classes, and sympathizing with them in all their wants, he is yet no radicalist, who would war against capital, and array the poor against the rich. His aspirations are to build up, not to tear down. He has a profound reverence for all the safeguards which long experience and sound wisdom have thrown about individual rights. His reliance is upon great and enduring

principles, and fully confides in those which have formed the rule of his public life. No crisis, however fearful, surprises or disarms him. Cool and self-possessed, with a sagacity that can see, through the mist of the hour, the future to which it leads, he is ever prepared for any emergency. Ardent and spontaneous, as are all his democratic impulses, and strong as are his feelings of humanity, he never would lend himself to the destruction of established order, regardless of the happiness of those most nearly concerned. Nor would he do so, with ruthless violence, upon established institutions which might stand in his way, even in the assertion of right. His political sentiments were formed under the instruction and in the intimate companionship of the wisest and most patriotic men of Pennsylvania—men who loved freedom and cherished the Union, and who knew how to maintain the latter without being derelict in their duty to the former. The principles he imbibed from them have been his unerring guide through life; and as they are still those of the people of his native State, who have served so long as a moral breakwater between the opposing sentiments and conflicting passions of the extremists of both sections of the Union, his nomination for the Presidency would afford a happy medium ground, in perfect character with the geographical position of the State, for the conservative people of all sections to unite and rally upon.

AN OLD FASHIONED PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRAT.

From the remarks already quoted, the reader may readily discover that Gen. Cameron is an old fashioned Pennsylvania Democrat, holding fast to the Democracy of the pure and great men of his native State from whom he received his political education. Truly national in all his principles, views, and feelings, he has yet never been so forgetful of the rights of Free Labor, as to lend himself to its surrender to appease the aggressive spirit of slavery. Nor would he, on the other hand, lend himself to the infringement, or violation, of any Constitutional rights of those enjoying the benefits of slave labor. He is no extremist on any subject. Schooled in the political creed of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania, when it had for its main pillars such men as Simon Snyder, William Findlay, Abner Lacock, Saml. D. Ingham, Jno. Bannister Gibson, Molton C. Rogers, Isaac D. Barnard, Wm. Darlington, Jonathan Roberts, and their like, he has consistently maintained the principles of those great men, and steadfastly adhered to them as those of true Pennsylvania Democracy.

HIS PUBLIC SPIRITED ENTERPRISE.

As an enlightened, public spirited citizen, Gen. Cameron has few equals, and no superiors. He is not only identified with the varied interests of Pennsylvania, but connected in some degree with many of her most important public improvements. Convinced that a mistake had been made by the State in the location of her main line of Public Works, he projected the Harrisburg and Lancaster Railway, to form a more speedy and direct line of communication between Philadelphia and the West, at an early day, and its construction, at that time, may be solely attributed to his enterprising spirit. It was then a great undertaking as a private enterprise, and but for him, would not have succeeded. So, too, the Lebanon Valley Railway. Though an important link in the chain of Railways from Philadelphia westward, there was no prospect of its construction until he led off in obtaining the means to build it, and pressed it to completion. The same, to some extent, may be said of the Northern Central Railway, from Harris-

burg to Saubury, and of the Tide-Water Canal, and a number of other improvements that could be named.

HIS BUSINESS HABITS AND QUALIFICATIONS.

His business habits and capacities are of the highest order, and enable him to perform an amount of labor, and attend to a variety of business pursuits, that few men are capable of. As an illustration of this, it need but be stated, that, for a while, at one and the same time, he was President of two Railway Companies, Cashier of a Bank, and President of an Insurance Company, all in active and successful operation, and the duties devolving upon him in each, well and faithfully performed.

HIS APPEARANCE, MANNERS, AND HABITS.

He is tall and slender, having a countenance remarkable for its keenness and intelligence. His appearance does not indicate the possession of a robust constitution. There are, however, few men who, at his age, are so free from disease, and who enjoy the same moral and physical energies. His is a constitution of great elasticity and vigor, capable of much endurance, and of active physical and mental exertions. Though his life has been a very active one, and his energies have been taxed very heavily, his habits having been temperate and regular in every respect, he possesses yet all the bodily and mental energy of a young man. His manners are plain, simple, and unaffected. There is nothing in them that is repulsive or forbidding to the stranger, but much that is calculated to make him a favorite with all classes of the people.

HIS CHARACTER AS A CITIZEN AND A MAN.

His is a nature that is keenly alive to kindly acts. Those who do him a favor are sure to have, in return, acts of kindness bestowed upon them with a lavish hand by him. He is a man of his word; frank and manly in his intercourse with all; never promises any thing that he is not able to perform, and never fails to perform that which he undertakes. He possesses, in an eminent degree, those qualities of the head and heart, which warmly attach to him all who make his acquaintance sufficiently well to understand his real character. In the neighborhood where he resides, he is esteemed by all classes, and enjoys a personal popularity which it falls to the lot of but few men to attain among their neighbors. Liberal in his impulses, and generous in his feelings, his kindly nature prompts him to the constant performances of acts of kindness to those with whom he has daily intercourse, and there are few, among his friends and neighbors, who are not under lasting obligations to him for such acts. In his contributions to the benevolent and charitable enterprises of the day, he is ever ready and liberal; and he has, perhaps, done more to aid deserving men, laboring under pecuniary reverses, by furnishing or procuring for them the necessary means to sustain them in business, and save them from ruin, than any other man in the State. Hundreds of the most useful business men of the State feel themselves indebted to him for such favors, and would rally to his support, if a candidate, with an ardor and enthusiasm which would have no bounds.

As a son, husband, and father, he presents a character truly noble. Were it in place, here, to dwell on his conduct as such, and the devoted manner in which he has clung to all of his father's household, keeping up and uniting together the family in an affectionate bond of brother and sisterhood,

loving and beloved by each other, much might be said highly creditable to his nature. Suffice it, however, to remark, that in all the duties devolving upon him, whether as a son, a husband, or a father, they have ever been so discharged as to prove that he is a man whose heart is in the right place.

A PENNSYLVANIA WORKING MAN.

Such is GEN. SIMON CAMERON, the choice of the People's party of Pennsylvania for the next Presidency of the United States! Were his merits less commanding and attractive than they are, sufficient reasons in favor of his nomination might be derived from the fact, that he comes from the body of the people, sympathizes with them, understands their wants, and knows how to promote their advancement and welfare. He has none of the dazzling and superficial qualities of mere scholastic attainments without native good sense, nor splendid oratory without wisdom or judgment, nor elegance of manners without sincerity of purpose; but, instead of these he unites, in a very eminent degree, those rare qualifications of a sound, common sense, practical, and useful public man, which are the result of quickness of apprehension, with accuracy of judgment, and strong natural talents, improved by severe discipline and study, close observation, thoughtful meditation, and extensive intercourse with his fellow men. He combines in his character those essential qualities of the head and heart which beget for him the confidence and esteem of the great mass of the people. He is emphatically a self-made man—an American mechanic, whose honest pride is that his social habits and domestic relations are those of that very large and highly respectable and useful class of his fellow citizens. He comes from the ranks of the people, sympathizes with them, understands their views and feelings, and knows how to promote their interests. Born and bred, as he has ever lived, a PENNSYLVANIA WORKING MAN, who so satisfactory to the working men of the country for the Presidency as he? Who, of all that have yet been named, more worthy of the people's confidence, and so likely to command their enthusiastic support, than the distinguished man who has surmounted all the difficulties of early orphanage, poverty, and destitution, and prepared himself for the high position of Senator of the United States, which he now fills with so much honor to himself and credit to his native State?

PENNSYLVANIA A UNION RALLYING POINT.

The people of Pennsylvania have ever sustained, with undeviating firmness, the principles of the Constitution, as understood and expounded by the Republican party, when Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, were at its head. They have, in all times of trial, and of difficulties, and dangers, proved true to those American Republican principles, which form the basis of the "American System." They have ever formed the grand rallying point around which the true Democracy of the country have gathered, and marched to victory. They now present to the consideration of their fellow countrymen the name of a man, as their choice for the Presidency, whose birth, life, character, principles, and everything connected with his history, is not only in entire accordance with the medium geographical position their State occupies in the Union, but in perfect harmony with, and illustrative of, those true American Republican principles to which her people have ever clung with fidelity. About what other standard would there be a likelihood of rallying the opposition to mis-called Democracy, to the same extent, and with the same unanimity, as about that of the Keystone State?

The nomination of Pennsylvania's favorite would be equivalent to securing her vote in the Electoral College of the Union, while it would tend to harmonize the conflicting elements on a medium basis of action in other States, bringing together those now separated from each other by non-essentials, and nationalizing the opposition into one common organization against the Democracy, from one end of the country to the other. We appeal, then, to the people of other States—not the politicians, but the people themselves—those who have at heart the welfare of the country—to ponder well the suggestions thus made to them. Let their omnipotent voice be heard responsive to the nomination of Pennsylvania's choice, and they will secure a candidate, who will not only lead them to victory, but who, when elected, will inaugurate an administration of the government that will elevate and improve the country, restore harmony and peace, and cement the bonds of Union.

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